

As we approach the end of a very turbulent 2015 one is almost hesitant to reflect back on the year that was. With the local economy struggling to show signs of growth, commodity prices at their lowest levels in many years and nearly all project and construction companies cutting back on projections and staff, 2015 made good with the promise that it was going to be a challenging year. 2016 looks no less challenging. But by employing various CII best practices, organisations can position themselves to improve their project delivery performance.

CII-“Africa” Chapter?

After the successful launch of the CII-SA chapter in May 2015, some interest in the activities of the Chapter were received from individuals from Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Ghana. This prompted the discussion of whether to broaden the scope of the Chapter to include other African countries. After consultation with the CII principle agreement was obtained to expand the reach of the local Chapter. Consequently from 2016 the Chapter will change its name to CII-Africa Chapter!

The Value of Implementing CII Best Practices

A Construction Industry Institute (CII) Best Practice is a process or method that, when executed effectively, leads to enhanced project performance. CII Best Practices have been proven through extensive industry use and/or validation.

Through extensive research the CII has been able to establish 15 best practices and to document their effect in making significant and measurable progress to improve the delivery of capital projects in the United States and around the globe.

For example, CII research has clearly demonstrated that those owner companies that frequently employed CII best practices achieved a -2.3% cost growth in their projects, whereas those companies that did not have a high use of CII best practices achieved a 8.6% growth in the cost of their projects. This means that those owner companies with low use of CII best practices could achieve a 10.9% improvement in their project costs if they were to improve their use of CII best practices.

Likewise the use of best practices also indicates a significant difference on project schedule growth, the deviation of actual project duration from planned duration. The projects with a high use of best practices had a schedule growth of 1.8 percent. Whereas projects with a low use of best practices had an 11.5 percent schedule growth. This means that those companies with low use of CII best practices could achieve a 9.7 percent improvement in their project schedule performance if they were to improve their use of CII best practices.

Previous CII studies demonstrate that Front End Planning (FEP) best practices are critical for a project's success. Good FEP leads to a well-defined project scope and minimizes scope changes during the execution phase.



Research data has shown that projects with high levels of implementation of FEP had an average project cost growth of -2.2 percent, which is 8.6 percent lower than that of companies that did not utilise FEP best practices.

By joining the CII Africa Chapter, each member organization is making a strong commitment to improve its business performance through the adoption and use of CII best practices and resources.

CII has developed a range of FEP resources and tools that assist project teams in the successful planning of projects. One such tool is the Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI).

The Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI) tool provides a method to measure project scope definition for completeness. The PDRI is used as a front end planning tool in the stages of a project preceding detail design and construction. Critical elements within a scope definition package are described in detail. This provides project team members with a tool for determining the definition of a project at the time of analysis.



Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI) and 10-10 Performance Assessment Workshop

The CII Chapter will be hosting a one-day workshop on Thursday 28th January 2016 on the use of the Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI) tool to be followed by a 10-10 Performance Assessment Webinar.

The **PDRI** is a comprehensive toolset to evaluate the level of scope definition elements presented in a score sheet format. It enables an integrated project team to critically evaluate the status of either an industrial, infrastructure or building project during front-end planning and to determine a score that assesses its level of definition early enough to do something about the gaps identified.

The **PDRI** provides numerous benefits to the project team including better team alignment, risk assessment/gap analysis, progress monitoring, and benchmarking baseline. To be used effectively, the tool should ideally be facilitated in the team environment by a neutral facilitator.

The **PDRI** workshop will provide an overview of front end planning and the PDRI and its use. It will include facilitation instruction incorporating a hands-on PDRI facilitation exercise; It is the first step in becoming a Certified **PDRI** Facilitator.

The CII **Performance Assessment** program provides the means for members to compare their capital and maintenance projects with the “best in class.”



Participants who receive benchmarking training input project performance and practice use data into the secure benchmarking site, "Performance Assessment System." Real-time project performance may be assessed in both graphical and tabular format against a large sample of projects from some of the industry's most reputable firms.

The CII Performance Assessment effort is overseen by the Performance Assessment Committee.

If you want to register to attend these workshops,

Contact: Tharien Potgieter Phone: (012) 420 4244, Email: tharien.potgieter@up.ac.za

Date: Thursday 28th January 2016.

Time: 09:00 to 16:00 (PDRI) and 16:30 to 18:30 (Performance Assessment)

Venue: University of Pretoria.

The cost to attend for members will be:

PDRI - R 500 and for non-members R 2 500.

Performance Assessment – R 200 and for non-members R1 500.

Seasons Greeting's

Wishing you and your family a peaceful and restful festive season and every success in the New Year.



Regards

Dr Giel Bekker
Director

